GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1482
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2016
Food Scam
Saini Shri Raj Kumar

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scam involving misappropriation of food items worth crores of rupees have been reported from several States including Haryana during the year 2015-16;
(b) if so, the details thereof, State and item-wise; and
(c) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard including the action taken against the persons found guilty indicating the details of the recoveries made?

Answer

MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)
(a) to (c): There have been reports about irregularities in implementation of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in certain regions/States including Haryana in the country. TPDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/Union Territory (UT) Governments wherein operational responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible beneficiaries, issuance of ration cards to them and supervision over and monitoring of functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs), etc. rest with the concerned State/UT Governments. Therefore, as and when complaints are received by the Government from individuals and organizations as well as through press reports, they are sent to State/UT Governments concerned for inquiry and appropriate action. A statement indicating State-wise number of complaints on TPDS including complaints related to Haryana for period 2015 - 2016 is at Annexure-I.
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Relevant clauses of the Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 and Targeted Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2015, mandates the State/UT Governments to carry out all required action to ensure smooth functioning of TPDS. Under the said Control Orders, the State/UT Governments are responsible for implementing TPDS and are competent to take action against those indulging in malpractices in TPDS. An offence committed in violation of the provisions of these Orders is liable for penal action under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Thus, both the Orders empower State/UT Governments to take punitive action in case of contravention of relevant provisions of these Orders.
The information received from Government of Haryana regarding alleged food scam is at Annexure-II.
As already mentioned, the operational responsibilities of implementation of TPDS within the State including action to be taken against the defaulters including the State Government officials/officers rest with the concerned State/UT Government. Therefore, the information/details of employees/officers continuing to serve in the State Government Departments despite enquiries pending against them, contemplation of giving voluntary retirements to them etc., is not maintained in this Department.
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